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The laſt Dying Speech

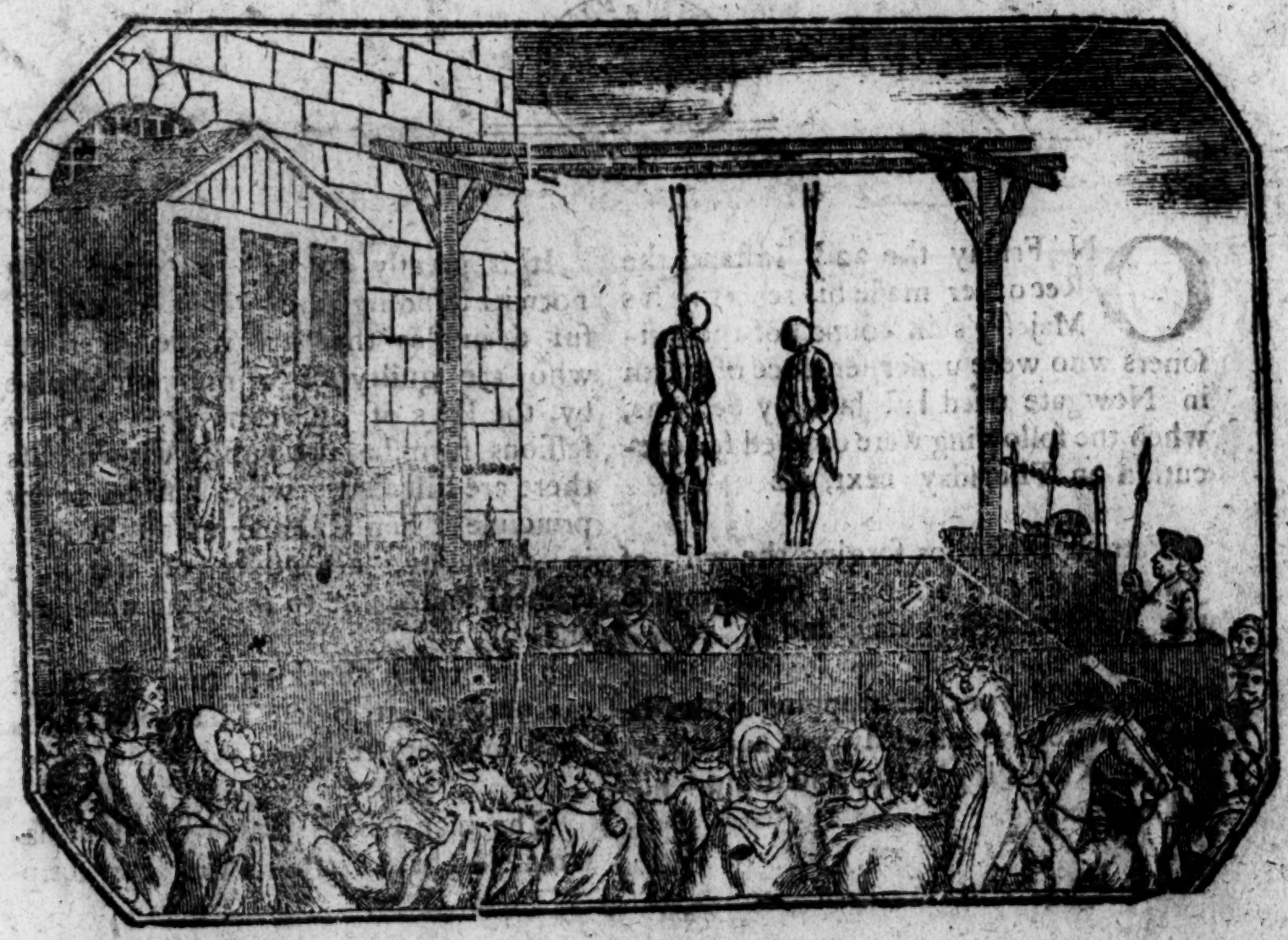
and Confeſſion

K Blake (P.)

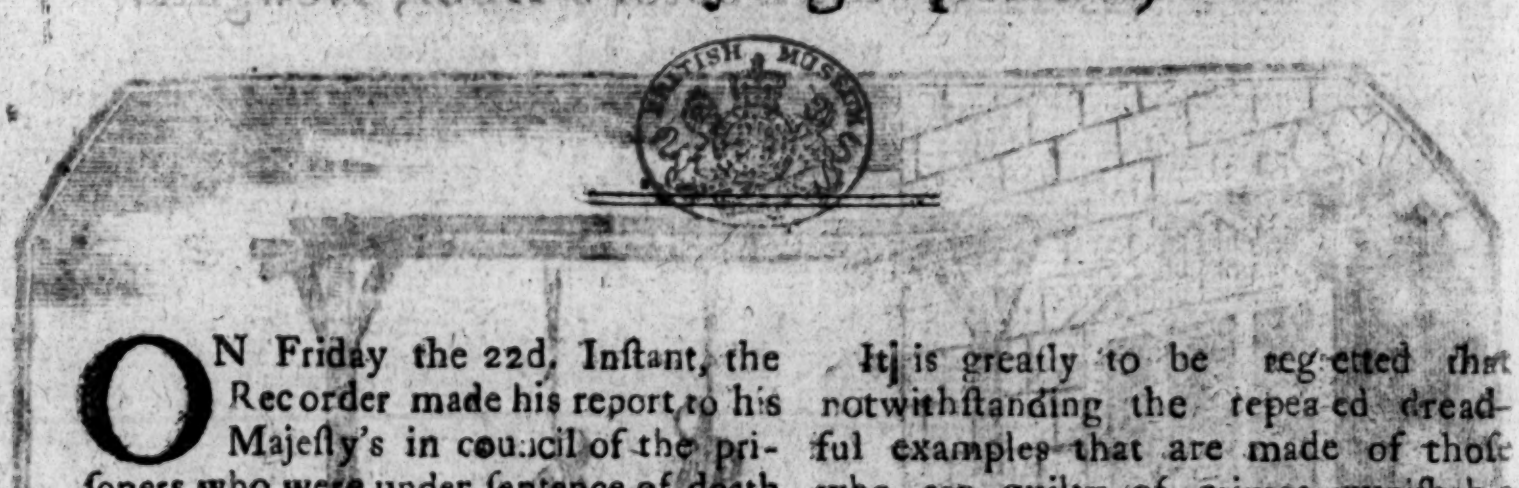
Of the Unfortunate

MALEFACTORS,

Executed before the Debtor's Door, Newgate.



The Laſt Dying Speech, &c.



ON Friday the 22d. Inſtant, the Recorder made his report to his Majeſty's in council of the priſoners who were under ſentence of death in Newgate tried laſt January Seſſions, when the following were ordered for execution on Thurſday next, viz.

Patrick Blake for forging the will, of John Ford, late armourer belonging to the Roſe Eaſt Indiaman, and

James Haynes for ſtopping with intent to rob Henry Edwards and others on the King's highway, and firing a piſtol at them.

It is greatly to be regretted that notwithſtanding the repeated dreadful examples that are made of thoſe who are guilty of crimes puniſhable by the laws of our country, yet every ſeſſions furniſhes the public with proofs there are ſtill ſome, who, loſt to every principle of honeſty, and inſenſibly ſunk in depravity, are guilty of the like crimes, and come to the ſame untimely end.

This truly ſhocking turn of mind can only be attributed to a total diſregard for every religious principle.

The man who is bound by thoſe ſacred ties held forth in the holy ſcrip-

es, will find himself reſtrained from mmitting depredations on ſociety. h in diſtates will inform his mind at ſuch deteſtable practices are as of-nſive in the ſight of the Almighty as ey are contrary to the laws of every ilized country.

To guard againſt falling into like aw- l and diſgraceful ſituations, ſure no le can be more certain and effectual an that which will implant in the ind a perfect hatred to ſuch infamous actices.

This can only be done but by apply- g ourſelves with ſincere attention to oſe rules laid ſo plainly down to us in cripture; which, if ſeriouſly conſidered, hile it creates in the mind an abhor- ence for the committing ſuch offences, ill at the ſame time ſhew how offenſive is to our great Creator, as it is inju- ous to ſociety in general.

Scarcely is ſeen an unhappy criminal t the place of execution, but he is ea d to deplore his peparture from, and eglect of rel gion. To this fatal error e very juſtly imputes his then unhappy ondition, and with an earneſtneſs that t might be thought could never be for- got, exhorts the ſurrounding ſpectators o take warning by his untimely end.

But, alas! how much is it to be re ret- ed, that there are ſtill thoſe, who though they are ſpectators of theſe dreadful ſpectacles, are ſtill going on in the fatal and wicked courſes, and who, after part- ing from their companion in iniquity, think no more of his dying requeſt, and, may be, that very night proceed to com- mit thoſe offences againſt the laws of God and man, which quickly afterwards bring them to a like untimely end.

The repeated inſtances of this ſort are too numerous and flagrant to admit of a denial.

This depravity is certainly produced by the diſregard and neglect already men- tioned; for the mind that is uncontrol- ed by any re igious principles will be- come vicious, and being void of every reflection, will eſtabliſh that as right which is repugnant to all laws civil and divine.

This fatal and deluſive way of think- ing is greatly heightened by aſſo ciating with thoſe who have adopted like prin- ciples. They harden each other in their iniquity, and by making a ridicule of thoſe ſacred laws which would have pre- ſerv ed them from the wretche i condi- tion ſuch ways of thinking have brought t em into, till too late t ey are convinced of their being wrong, and depart from this world, perhaps, in the prime of life, in an ignominious manner.

The two unhappy criminals, whoſe narative will be here related are evi tont inſtances of the truth of the above, and

whoſe exhortations to the ſpectators who attend theſe dreadful Examples given by public Juſtice will, it is ſincerely hoped, have that deſired effect ſo much wiſhed for by every perſon who wiſhes to avoid ſuffering a like ignominious death.

James Haynes, the unfortunate ſubject of the following melancholy narrative, was convicted for firing a piſtol at Henry Edwards, and others, on the king's highway near Hounſlow. This man deſcended from reputable parents, but not opulent, who gave him a tolerable education, ſuch as qualified him for a mechanical employment. When he arrived at a proper age he was apprenticed to a currier, where he remained the uſual time. But aſſociating, he declared, with diſſolute companions, ſoon gave him a diſtaſte to induſtry. He own was too ſoon prevailed on to join them in their illegal practices, and for a conſiderable time continued in depradations on the public. When viſited while under ſentence of death he frequently regretted his having departed from thoſe religious inſtructions he received from his parents in his youth, which if he had continued to obſerve, would have preſerved him from committing thoſe crimes he had been guilty of, and prevented his coming to ſo ignominious death.

He earneſtly beſought thoſe who viſited him, to be careful how they ſuffered themſelves to be ridiculed out of attention to religious duties, the obſervance of which was the only means of preſerving them from coming into a like diſtreſſed condition they ſaw him. At the place of execution he appeared reſigned, and died in firm hope of forgiveneſs of his manifold ſins through the merits and ſufferings of his Redeemer.

Parick Blake, convicted of forging the will of John Ford late armourer on board the Roſe Eaſt Indiaman, was a native of Ireland. He owned he was guilty of the crime he was to die for, and that he had been long in the practice, by which he had attained conſiderable ſums. His behaviour while under ſentence was ſullen and ſeemingly hardened, and appeared rather ignorant of thoſe principles of religion neceſſary in his deſperate ſituation. At the place of execution the ſame ſeeming inſenſibility ſtill continued, and he was launched into eternity an object of pity to every thinking chriſtian ſpectator.

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